

# **FATHOM THIS!**

The monthly newsletter from  
San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park

**May, 2011**  
**Issue #35**

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## CONTRIBUTORS:

Terry Dorman  
Volunteer Coordinator

Denise McEvoy  
Park Guide

Melani Van Petten  
Library Friends Assistant

Welcome to San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, and to the May issue of Fathom This! To see all the programs the park has to offer, please go to our website at <http://www.nps.gov/safr/>, and to the website of the San Francisco Maritime National Park Association, the park's nonprofit partner, at <http://www.maritime.org>.

Fathom This! is sent monthly. Feel free to forward it, in whole or in part, and enter it into blogs. To receive it, or to cancel, email the editor at: [peter\\_kasin@nps.gov](mailto:peter_kasin@nps.gov).

## **ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH**

May is national Asian / Pacific American Heritage Month. Join us and explore California Chinese maritime history. Chinese Americans were a significant presence on the early California waterfront. During the height of the Gold Rush period in 1851, almost one third of all forty niners who entered the Golden Gate by ship were Chinese. The programs listed below will explore the critical impact that the Chinese workers had on the shrimp, salmon and abalone industries along coastal California and Alaska.

## **CHINESE CANNERY LABORERS**

*Sunday, May 8, 3:00pm. Meets aboard Balclutha, Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission applies: Adults, \$5. Ages 15 and under, free. Free with national park passes.*

Learn about the lives and cultural contributions of Chinese laborers who braved rough seas and poor working conditions while sailing from San Francisco to Alaska for the annual salmon run.

### **MARITIME CHINESE COMMUNITY PROGRAMS**

*Saturday, May 14, 3:00pm, and Saturday, May 28, 1:00pm. Meet on Hyde Street Pier. Free. Information: 415-447-5000, or <http://www.nps.gov/safr/>.*

The early Chinese Americans were the first commercial fishermen in California. They were instrumental in pioneering the development of the San Francisco Bay shrimping industry, as well as squid and abalone fishing in Monterey Bay and in the Channel Islands. Join a ranger talk that will delve in the fascinating story of their unique lives as we reflect upon their historical contributions to our maritime heritage.

### **KLEBINGAT LECTURE SERIES: *THE FALLS OF CLYDE*: PAST - PRESENT - FUTURE**

*Wednesday, May 18, 6:00pm. In the Maritime Library, Fort Mason Center, Bldg. E, Third Floor. Wheelchair accessible by elevator. Information and reservations: 415-561-7040, or email: [maritimefriends@earthlink.net](mailto:maritimefriends@earthlink.net).*

Park Historic Ships Preservationist Chris Jannini will tell the story of the *Falls of Clyde*, the last four-masted iron ship currently afloat. He will cover her working career as an ocean carrier, her conversion to a tanker at a San Francisco dry dock, her dramatic rescue by Karl Kortum and friends from being sunk as a useless barge, the restoration of her hull and rig in the 1970's, her life and decline as a museum attraction in Honolulu, her present condition as a dismantled hulk, and the hopes for her future.

### **VOLUNTEER AT THE PARK**

There are plenty of opportunities available for the interested and dedicated individual: volunteering as a Docent, taking part in the costumed Living History program, working with *Friends of the Maritime Library*, earth-friendly projects such as a Beach and Park Clean-up, or assisting in our Aquatic Park Gardens and Grounds areas as well as painting and refurbishing projects on Hyde Street Pier. We also have projects aboard historic vessels such as the steam tug *Hercules*, or aboard the Scow Schooner *Alma* or the squared-rigged *Balclutha*.

If you would like to know more about our Volunteers In Parks program or a particular project, or to simply experience what we have to offer as a volunteer, please call the Volunteers In Parks (VIP) office at 415-561-7160, or drop an email to either [terry\\_dorman@nps.gov](mailto:terry_dorman@nps.gov), or [darren\\_driskill@nps.gov](mailto:darren_driskill@nps.gov).

This month there will be a painting project (weather depending) aboard the 1890 ferry *Eureka*. Project dates are Wednesday, May 18, and Saturday, May 21, 9:30am to 12:30pm. *Everyone is welcome to join in by simply calling the Volunteer Office number.*

## LINKS

<http://www.nps.gov/safr/> San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park.

<http://www.maritime.org> San Francisco Maritime National Park Association, the park's nonprofit member-supported cooperating association.

<http://www.library.nps.gov> The Maritime Library catalog.

<http://www.museum.nps.gov/safr/page.htm> The park museum catalog records.

<http://www.maritimelibraryfriends.org> The Maritime library's nonprofit member-supported cooperating association.

<http://www.hydestreetlivinghistory.org> The park Living History program's volunteer created and managed website.